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The Last Word

S T A F F

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I N R E T R O S P E C T

By Felix Mantell
Director of Astoria U.S.O. Club

1954 has been a good year. It has been a bigger year than 1953. We made more money. We spent more money. We served more people. We also improved our building. We did more things and we told more people about them.

Our volunteers rose to new heights. We are proud of their accomplishments.

But the true test of our worth is whether or not we have done anything significant with people. One is tempted to point with pride to a balanced budget. That is concrete evidence that we have managed well our substance. To quote statistics gives evidence of growth. A redecorated building shows physical improvement. But the question still must be answered - "Have we made some contribution to their spiritual, mental, physical or social development? This would include not only those served, but also those who serve. In this area our results are more intangible. We can't quote statistics or financial figures to prove our point. This is a higher calling. It is the philosophy which should undergird everything we do. People, not things, are our business. Helping people to be their best selves is our goal. Our resolve for the coming year is to endeavor to provide more opportunities for people to develop their potentialities. We hope that there will be evidences that people having participated in our program have in some small way become better people because of it. In order to accomplish this we know full well that we ourselves must grow also. We look backward with satisfaction at the year passed. We look forward with anticipation and resolve to the yearahead. May God bless us and aid us in our future endeavors.

"Santa's Ballroom" Dance

On Saturday evening, December 18, at eight p.m., the gaily decorated doors of Santa Land opened to the delight of the U.S.O. merrymakers.

Christmas was the watchword, with the traditional tree decorated to the hilt, sitting in the northwest corner of the ballroom.

As the couples glided by, their eyes found the hearth where the stockings were hung, waiting for Santa to fill them. Santa looked down from his sleigh pulled by his trusty reindeer to watch them enjoying themselves beneath the misty blue lights.

The southwest corner formed the Mariner's celestial position with a blue background broken only by the seven white candles placed in candelabra position.

George Bryan was cited for the decorating honors as well as his many helpers who spent a good deal of time laboring to make this a well remembered evening.

The surprise visit of Santa Claus boosted the morale even higher, as the group watched Mr. Mantell open his Christmas package which contained a miniature model of a new car. The ballroom was filled with happy voices singing holiday songs as Santa presented everyone with a gift from his well-filled pack. Wishing a Merry Christmas to all, he quietly (!//!) departed and intermission began.

An attractively decorated table held the refreshments furnished by the Methodist Church which were enjoyed by the festive members who then resumed their dancing until midnight.

Beautiful bouquets to the Mariners, Mrs. Stone, Mr. Mantell, and all the decorators, the Methodist Church, and of course Santa Claus for making such a wonderful Christmas Ball possible.

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It's 10:00 p.m., New Years Eve at the U.S.O. The party has begun! Father Time is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the New Year Babe of 1955. There are horns and whistles a plenty for all the spectators to help them give the proper welcome to the new year.

To help bide the time, dancing was enjoyed. Now such an occasion, which naturally occurs but once a year, certainly calls for only the best in music, and that is exactly what was enjoyed. Yes, with Chuck and Pat at the turntable, they saw to it that the top bands in the nation provided the dance music.

When I say dancing was enjoyed by all, I think everyone who was present will agree with me. I'm not sure if the same can be said of the games which were mastermined by none other than Dudley Hill. Squeegie Weegie got a little out of hand when several participants caught on before they were supposed to. As it turned out there were quite a few unsuspecting victims which probably brought more of a laugh than if it had been followed according to rules. Oh yes, there were other games also such as passing the apple and the card. There were several snap shots taken during these games, none of which I hope will be material for black mail. Then there was the game in which two partners were tied together in such a way that the strings inter twined. I, for one, was beginning to fear that I would never get untangled.

At the stroke of 12:00 a deafening noise resounded and each and everyone present put their horn, and in many cases horns, to good use. Nineteen hundred and fifty five was certainly welcomed with a bang and I'm certain it was rather proud of this royal welcome which it received.

Many hands went into making this party such a success. Thanks are due particularly to George for the wonderful decorations, the work of which he engineered. Then of course, thanks go to Dudley for arranging the entertainment and a dozen and one other responsibilities which he accepted for everyone's good time. Then too, thanks are due also to those ~~wonderful~~ people who loaned their rain coats for one particular mush-eating contest. (Their coats will probably never be the same, but they shall never want for lack of breakfast cereal).

Of course as the evening draws to a close, there is always the unpleasant task of cleaning up. Thanks to Mary Jo, Sue, Verna, Eleanor, Chuck, George, Roger and a few more willing individuals, the hall was left spic and span for the next day.

Wonderful food, sent in by the Navy and consisting of delicious turkey, ham, salad and all sorts of goodies, was enjoyed by all present. Certainly all of you who stayed away, missed a wonderful feed, a lot of laughs, and in general just a wonderful New Years Eve Party!

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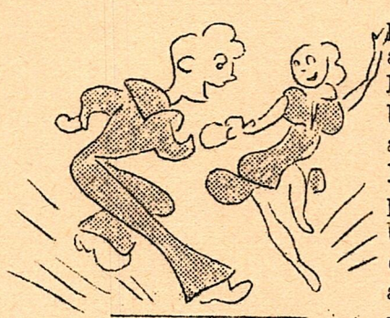
"SNOWFLAKE" DANCE

On the night of January 6, 1955 we had a dance in honor of the Girl and Boy of the month for December 1954. As you might know by now we were honoring that cute little blond Sue Sells, and that man about town George Bryan. You can read the Girl and Boy of the month articles to see the fine points these people have.

The Snowflake Dance was put under way around 8:00 p.m., and music was supplyed by the Mariners, which I might way are doing a good job in the field of music. The dance floor was pretty well packed, and everyone seemed to be having a good time. To go with the theme all sizes, shapes, and colors of glittering snow flakes adorned the walls and windows. At 10:00 p.m. we had intermission, and it was at this time that the Girl and Boy of the month were announced. Sue received a Corsage of Red Roses which looked very nice on her, and George received a white carnation. They were donated by the Erickson Florist. Congradulations to you both .



The Mariners played until 11:30 as one of their boys, Dale Deloff, will be leaving us soon, and it would be the last time he would play at the U.S.O. We wish to say "Best of Luck", and thanks a lot for participating in the dance band!

BOY OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 1954!

Full Name.....George "Rocky" Bryan
Birthplace.....Sacramento, California
Birthdare.....September 6, 1928
Brothers & Sisters.2 Older Brothers, and kid sister
Favorite Color.....Blueish colors
Favorite Food.....Everything, and anything
Favorite Pastime...Dancing and sailing
Plans for the future..
To operate his own hotel and motel business.

Height.....5'11"
Weight.....165 lbs
Eyes.....Blue
Hair.....Brown
Marital Status....
Single for the time being????
Comments on the U.S.O...A good place to come to meet nice people, and have a good time.
Pet Peeve...Hates to have to wait for anyone.

George has been coming to the U.S.O. for the past month and a half. He seems to fall right in with most things that go on around the U.S.O. An easygoing guy who seems to get along with everyone, George is the person you can thank for the decorations that were put up for the Christmas and New Years' dance. George will be with us for a long time, so you can expect the decorating committee to come up with some good ideas in the future.

We want to say thank you and Congratulations for being the U.S.O. Boy of the Month!

GIRL OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

We are happy to present the December girl of the month "Sweet Sue" Sells. Sue was born in Sallisaw, Oklahoma on December 5, 1935. Blond, blue eyed, Sue is 5 ft. 1½ inches tall and that's stretching it a bit. Her favorite food is spaghetti. She likes all the popular songs but her favorite is "Smile." She also likes "everybody" so that makes her one of our favorite Jr. Hostesses.

Sue is receptionist at the Fowler Clinic so we know she makes the day brighter for a great many people.

Sue's ambition is to be an airline stewardess. We hope she realizes that ambition and know that if she does she will be an inspiration to all she meets.

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from the MAIL BAG

The Mailman was kept busy this past month bringing mail to the U.S.O. from our friends from many parts of the world.

We received numerous Christmas cards and letters.

Morris Matts sent a "hello" to all the gang. He is now enjoying civilian life in Tower, Minn. He is still continuing his favorite pastime.. dancing (with pretty school teachers in his home town). Matts said he misses Astoria and just may come up for a visit on his vacation.

Hal Simpson sent his Christmas Greetings via letter. He has less than 2 months left in the Navy. Hal has played with several combos while on the USS Wedderburn.

Cards were received from the following: Albert Geisler, evidently he is still in Guam; Gloria Nichols, who is still enjoying San Francisco; Jake Stock; Ronald and Edna Ross, who are living in Highland, Indiana; William Fettys; Beverly Bales, who is stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas in the Waves; Bob D. May (we were wondering if he may be living back in Hutchinson, Kansas); Marv and Sylvia Severson, who are living in Long Beach, California; Dick Feigner, w ho is stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, we may be seeing him when he gets out in March as he lives in Milton Freewater, Oregon; Ralph and Mildred "Tack" Takakjian; D. C. Strain Jr. He is now on the U.S.S. Alshain (AKA-55); Dick Stablein - he is stationed on the U.S.S. Prairie (AD-15); Ann Schairer - she was home for the holidays; And Bill Baker - he wrote from the U.S. Naval Hospital in Corona, California. He said to say hi to everyone.

HIGH POINT GIRLS FOR DECEMBER

	Hours	Points
Sue Sells	58½	86
(Girl of the Month for December)		
Patricia McKenna	75	74
(Girl of the Month for May)		
Mary Jo Chase	44	55
(Girl of the Month for November)		
Marcia Kaller	49½	50
Virginia Wofford	47¼	47½
(Girl of the Month for August)		
Louise Brenner	19½	20

MEET THE BOYS

Although not a newcomer to Astoria or the U.S.O., we nevertheless would like all of you to get acquainted with Dawson C. Green. As I walked up to get the vital statistics on this 5 foot 11 inch, blue eyed baker, I found him working industriously on a project for the U.S.O. Upon convincing him that he needed a little break from his labors, he paused to give me the following data which I shall pass along to you the readers.

St. Louis, Missouri shall long remember the date, March 10, 1931 for it was on that day that Dawson made his debut into society. He seems an easy one to please for most any kind of music will satisfy him. Particularly enjoying classical and swing music, he rates "Singing in the Rain" as his favorite song. (Seems rather appropriate for this Astoria "sunshine"). Basketball, boxing, swimming, and wrestling all rank high with Dawson. Although most foods satisfy him, he never seems to tire of his favorite dessert of devils food cake with marshmallow icing. Sounds pretty wonderful to me also!

Of the 4 years and 4 months that he has spent serving Uncle Sam, we can boast of his company since September, 1953. Prior to his arrival in Astoria, Dawson seems to have traveled far and wide. His career with the men in blue started way back in Norfolk, Virginia. From Norfolk he went to the Phillipines, then to the Yellow Sea and Sea of Japan to serve off the coast of Korea. After heading back to San Diego and then Norfolk once again he was sent to Cuba for a shakedown cruise. It seems our friend likes Norfolk for once again this was his destination, however he was soon sent to Jacksonville, Florida. From Florida he headed for new country and was sent on two Mediterranan cruises. While there he managed to tour Rome, Paris, Spain, Turkey, Greece, the Algiers, and parts of Switzerland. After several different stations back in the States, Dawson went in dry docks at Boston and then left for shore duty in Tacoma, Washington. This, I am sure, was a welcome change as Tacoma is only 35 miles from his home in Seattle. He was not long for Tacoma however, and his next change brought him here to Astoria, and here he has remained for 16 months.

When questioned as to his opinion of Astoria, he replied, "Home is where you make it, and Astoria is home right now."

If Dawson's dreams come true, the future will find him studying dentistry at the University of Washington. He has one regret now and that is that he is too far away from any college to be able to sneak in a few credits to start him on his career of pulling teeth.

Now in this interview there was one important fact which I forgot to find out...his marital status. If you want to find out however, just introduce yourself to this likeable sailor, DAWSON C. GREEN, and I'm sure he will tell you.

MEET THE BOYS

We would also like to have you meet a buddy of Dawson's. His name is Lee J. Hartman, SK3. Lee was born in Sumner, Washington, February 11, 1932. He has two brothers and one sister. His family is now living in Washougal, Washington.

Lee has been in the Navy for three and half years and will be getting out late this spring. He plans to work for the Aluminum Co. of America when he is discharged.

Vital Statistics:
Height - 5'11"
Weight - 150
Hair - Brown
Eyes - Blue
Pet Peeve - Bus Drivers
Favorite Pastime - Traveling
Music - Classical
Favorite Food - Angel Food Cake
Marital Status - Single at present.
Hmmm

SONG DEDICATIONS

"BLUE VELVET" To Chuck, who seems to like (Blue) so much !??
"YOUR DRIVING ME CRAZY" For a Buddy! To a friend!??
"LET ME GO LOVER" To Mary from Roger - a request.
"THATS ALL I WANT FROM YOU" To Louise from Jake. Easy Boy?
"SMILE" To the three that at one time always smiled!
"MY FIRST MY LAST MY ONLY" To David!? From Lavern? Oh!
BECAUSE OF RAIN" To Lavern!? From David!? You might say that!
"TILL THEN" To Dotty! From Pat. Next New Years Dot!
"I DON'T HURT ANYMORE" For Janice. Knock, Knock!???
"UNDECIDED" To Roger. Go slow boy, go slow.
"BLACK LACE" For Marcia! ooh-ah-o----h!
"STAR EYES" To Sue! They are just like stars.
"LUNA ROSSA" For Pat! Pat Patrone that is.
"MOOD (blue)INDIGO" For Mary Jo! She likes it a lot!?
"I NEED YOU NOW" From Jack L. to all the U.S.O. girls.
"I'LL STRING ALONG WITH YOU" To Big Bear and Little Bear.
"I LOVE YOU" For the two, that wish that they could have two more!

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CHIT CHAT

Well here I am again to bring you up on the latest! Anytime anyone has anything that he or she thinks will be of interest to those that read the "Last Word" let me know, and I will throw it in. By the way me is "Pat Patrone" just to let you know who to see.

Well there sure was a lot going on around here for the Christmas and New Years holidays. For a while there we had a dance or something going on for almost a week or so. The decorating committee sure did a swell job on this old place. A few of the master minds got together, and with the help of the guys and gals around here really went to work and did a bang up job. The windows were the best I have seen in town, and for this we can thank Verna. You know, Verna put in a lot of extra hours to help put this last month over. I myself and I know you all will go along with me to say "thanks a lot", and we all hope Santa done brought you what you wanted.

In case you are all wondering what happened to that Little Gal Mary Jo Chase, whe is working nights now, but don't worry she will be back with you in a week or so.

We are all seeing a lot of new faces around the U.S.O. lately, and the reason for that is we have a lot of new men just out of boot camp with us at Tongue Point. I hope all you fellows are going to fall into the swing of things around here. What you make out of your stay here at Astoria will be up to you, but I will tell you one thing you can sure have a good time right here at the U.S.O. if you participate in the events that we have planned. Hope to see more of you in the future.

Have you all noticed that lately the dances on Saturday nights are getting better and better. If we could get more girls up here it could really turn into something!

Mr. and Mrs. Les Foy dropped in one Sunday afternoon during the Christmas holidays. Les is out of the Navy now and they were about to get underway for Kalispell, Montana where they will reside.

Well all for now, look in on me again next month, might have something in here about you -- Who knows!

"Pat" P.

WALRUS LINES FROM W. Y

Howdy you all,

Course this Howdy you all isn't said too loud to certain persons (as yet they haven't recovered from the Christmas spirits (hick hick Pat old boy).

I have a word of warning to all you unwary servicemen. Don't invite certain girls to partake in a Chinese Dinner sometime, because they really go for the Chinese food in a big way (eat a fella out of house and home) course I can't let you know their names, cause if I did they (girls) wouldn't be able to trick you into going out, but their initials are Anne, Verna, Pat (alis slow mule) and Mary Jo.

I wonder who is the old gal (I was going to say girl, but that is too young to say girl, so old gal, fits better) at 6 January 55 dance all most all dressed in "Red", well at least "Red" accessories, right "Jake"?, or as well all call him Snakie Jake.

On the serious side thanks to everyone for coming to our Christmas day dance and thanks to everyone there for making our New Years Eve Party a <u>ball</u> instead of a <u>srawl</u>, also our appreciation to the Special Services at the Base for the food on New Years Eve.

Me speak so long Joe, must be off for Kokomo, so solly please yoo-all I from south Japan.

Wally

P. S. There is a certain rascal who has had his name changed in the last two weeks, used to be Carlos McClain, and now is "P"uine McClaine. Ask him why, not me.

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A M O R N I N G P R A Y E R

By E. S. Williams

SHOW ME today the jobs I must do,
And give me the strength to do them,
Hold back my hand when it's tempted to grab,
But open it wide when it's giving.
Bridle my tongue when with spite it would speak,
But make it more fluent with praises.
Fill me with love for all living things,
And with patience for those who would plague me.
Let me, dear Lord, grow closer to Thee,
And follow the path of Thy teaching,
And all through this day, hold my hand and my heart,
And guide me in love and in kindness.